

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Status of the Application**

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application prior to this amendment. Claims 1-18 stand rejected. The Examiner objected to claims 2, 3, 10 and 11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

With this amendment, claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 15, 17 and 18 have been amended. Claims 2 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of any subject matter. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

### **II. Response to Objections**

The Examiner objected to the Title. Applicant has amended the title as shown above and respectfully request that the objection now be withdrawn.

### **III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 1 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite.

In response to the rejection, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9 for further clarification as shown above and respectfully request that the rejection now be withdrawn.

### **IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101**

Claims 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In response to the rejection, Applicant has amended claims 17 and 18 according to the Examiner's suggestion as shown above and respectfully request that the rejection now be withdrawn.

### **V. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,079,700 to Shinbata (hereafter, "Shinbata").

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claims 2 and 10, respectively.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 9, as amended, are distinguishable from Shinbata.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicant believes that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

**AUTHORIZATION**

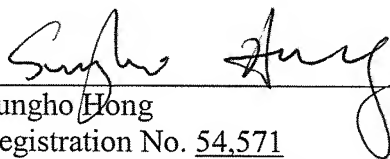
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5196. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5196. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: July 12, 2007

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